BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images, please do not report the images to the Image Problem Mailbox.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising:

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which width depends on the distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

4 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising:

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

a lead laminated on a part of a peripheral portion of the transparent electrode layer;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer and the lead;

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer~~; and a lead being connected with at least a part of the peripheral portion of the electrode layer~~.

5 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 4 wherein the electroluminescence layer is insulated from the lead with an insulting film.

6 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of ~~witch~~ which each area depends on the light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary illuminance for reading an image; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue).

7 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 6 wherein the electroluminescence of the respective color R, G, B is strip-formed and the lateral direction width of the electroluminescence for each color R, G, B depends on the light-emitting capability and the necessary illuminance.

8 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 7 wherein each electroluminescence layer for each color R, G, B is arranged in the direction parallel with the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate.

9 (currently amended): A light source for image reading apparatuses, comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of ~~witch~~ which each position depends on the light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary illuminance for reading an image; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue).

10 (canceled)

11 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A light source for image reading apparatuses ~~of claim 10,~~ comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the width at the end of the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is larger than the width in the center.

12 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A light source for image reading apparatuses ~~of claim 10,~~ comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the end face of the lateral side of the light source pieces is slanted in relation to the lateral direction of the light source pieces.

Claims 13-16 (canceled)

17 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A light source for image reading apparatuses ~~of claim 14,~~ comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is made up of a central light emitting layer making the center of the light emitting layer emit light and end light emitting layers making the ends of the light emitting layer emit light, and wherein the end faces of the light source piece are roughly L-shaped.

18 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 17 wherein the end face is off the median line parallel with the longitudinal direction of the light source piece.

19 (canceled)

20 (currently amended): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 6 or 9 wherein a common transparent electrode layer is used in place of each transparent electrode layer corresponding to ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate, or a common metallic electrode layer is used in place of each metallic electrode layer corresponding to ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue).

21 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of which width is depending on the distance from the contact point between the electrode layer and a lead; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer.

Claims 22 and 23 (canceled)

24 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer laminated on the transparent substrate;

a lead laminated on a part of a peripheral portion of the transparent electrode layer;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer laminated on the transparent electrode layer and the lead;

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer~~; and a lead being connected with at least a part of the peripheral portion of the electrode layer~~.

25 (original): The light source for image reading apparatuses of claim 24 wherein the electroluminescence layer is insulated from the lead with an insulting film.

26 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent substrate;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of ~~witch~~ which each area depends on the light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary illuminance for reading an image; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue).

27 (original): The image reading apparatus of claim 26 wherein the electroluminescences for the respective colors R, G, B are strip-formed and the lateral side widths of the electroluminescences for the colors R, G, B are widths depending on the light-emitting capability and the necessary illuminance.

28 (original): The image reading apparatus of claim 17 wherein a plurality of the electroluminescences for the colors R, G, B are arranged in the direction parallel with the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate.

29 (currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a transparent electrode layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue), laminated on the transparent substrate;

~~a~~ an electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue) laminated on the transparent electrode layer, of ~~witch~~ which each position depends on the light emitting capability of the respective colors and the necessary illuminance for reading an image; and

a metallic electrode layer laminated on the electroluminescence layer for each color of ~~R(red)~~ R (red), G (green), B (blue).

30 (canceled)

31 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An image reading apparatus ~~of claim 30~~, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the width of the end of the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is larger than the width in the center.

32 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An image reading apparatus ~~of claim 30~~, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the end face of the lateral side of the light source is slanted in relation to the ~~lateral~~ lateral direction of the light source.

Claims 33-36 (canceled)

37 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An image reading apparatus ~~of claim 34~~, comprising:

a light source;

the light source further comprising;

a plurality of light source pieces wherein each source piece has a light emitting layer on a transparent substrate;

a plurality of joint portions jointing each light source piece to provide one light source, wherein the light emitting layer of each of the light source pieces is made up of a central light emitting layer making the center of the light emitting layer emit light and

end light emitting layers making the ends of the light emitting layer emit light, and

wherein the end faces of the light source piece are roughly L-shaped.

38 (original): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the end face is off the median line parallel with the longitudinal direction of the light source piece.

39 (canceled)

40 (currently amended): ~~A~~ An image reading ~~apparatuses~~ apparatus, comprising:

a lens for reading ~~a~~ an original document image;

two electroluminescence light sources formed by jointing a plurality of light source pieces, arranged at the right and left of the lens, and joint portions of the respective light source pieces installed at right and left are formed at different positions in the longitudinal direction of the lens.